

**Sainsbury Institute symposium sessions at
World Archaeological Congress 8, Kyoto**
28th August – 2nd September 2016

The global impact and significance of major archaeological projects

Tuesday 30th August. Session 4, 9:00-11:00. Doshisha University

Organisers: Simon Kaner (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK), Koji Mizoguchi (Kyushu University, Japan) and Sam Nixon (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK)

Abstract:

How can we provide new ways to assess the significance and global impact of major archaeological projects? How do major projects engage in a genuine dialogue with a wider World Archaeology? The holding of WAC in Japan provides a useful context for a discussion of large-scale archaeological projects and their international profile. For many years, Japanese archaeology has been characterised by very high numbers of large-scale excavations, many of which probably were of international significance, but very few came to the attention of international audiences, and even fewer involved international participation. This session investigates the continuing dialogue concerning the international impact of major archaeological projects from any given country, explores the significance of transnational participation in such projects, and raises issues in the dissemination of their findings for world archaeology. The session will comprise a series of presentations on major archaeological projects which have shaped the research landscape in recent years, and will consider how each contributes to the formulation of transnational research agendas. The session will include contributions about a selection of major British archaeological projects, marking the 30th anniversary of the inaugural conference of the World Archaeological Congress in Southampton in 1986, where delegates were taken to visit excavations at the famous Iron Age site of Maiden Castle. The session will also include comments by international discussants. Other contributions are invited from around the world.

Keywords: British archaeology, international significance, major research projects

Global perspectives on religious heritage: Okinoshima and the formation of syncretic beliefs in world context

Tuesday 30th August. Session 6, 16:40-18:40. Doshisha University

Organisers: Simon Kaner (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK), Miki Okadera (Fukuoka Prefectural World Heritage Registration Promotion Division, Japan) and Sam Nixon (Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK)

Abstract:

The archaeology of religion is a rapidly developing field, and how we deal with

religious heritage around the world is often contentious. Much religious heritage is intangible, but there are of course many tangible aspects as well. This session addresses issues that arise through the spread of 'world religions' as they come into contact with local, indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices. This session draws in particular on work undertaken for the nomination of Okinoshima as UNESCO World Heritage to explore broader themes in the archaeology of the arrival of Buddhism and its impact on local beliefs. We invite contributions that will focus in particular on the archaeology of syncretism and case studies in dealing with religious heritage, including from the Silk Road, to set studies of early Buddhism and Shinto in a comparative global perspective.

Keywords: archaeology of religion, Silk Road, Okinoshima